



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. in Moscow to Pursue Cooperation on Intellectual Property Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner visited Moscow April 9 – 13, 2006 to discuss intellectual property rights protection, counterterrorism, and cooperation on international crime with his Russian counterparts. Congressman Sensenbrenner is a Republican Member of Congress representing the Fifth Congressional District of Wisconsin and chairs the House Committee on the Judiciary. He has established a strong record on crime, constitutional, and intellectual property issues as a long-serving member of the Judiciary Committee.

A committed proponent of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection, Congressman Sensenbrenner is in Moscow to discuss Russia's pending application for WTO accession. Speaking with IPR rights holders in Moscow on April 11, the Congressman said:

“It is not just the entertainment industry that suffers from IPR violations, but also software, pharmaceuticals, and methods and products designed to make manufacturing more productive. Russia also suffers from the actions of copyright pirates. Russia has significant intellectual property to protect, particularly in science and technology, and it is in Russia's interest to protect the work of its scientific community. Preventing IPR piracy gives Russians the ability to benefit from their intellectual curiosity and creative efforts.”

Noting that IPR piracy levels in China actually increased following that country's WTO accession, Congressman Sensenbrenner said:

“The United States Congress believed that WTO entry would reduce copyright piracy in China, but it hasn't worked. Rampant illegal activity in China alone costs Western

businesses \$16 billion a year. Piracy in China has reduced American exports, cost American jobs, and negatively impacted America's trade balance. It means that Russia will have to do much more than China to reassure the U.S. Congress that they won't be making the same mistake again."

Congressman Sensenbrenner argued that more aggressive enforcement activities together with efforts to strengthen Russian legislative foundations for IPR protection would be more effective than trying to reinvent the protection process. The Congressman said:

"The protection of IPR has strong support from both Republicans and Democrats in the United States Congress. While it is impossible to completely eliminate piracy, it is important that the Russian government exhibit a strong resolve on this issue, demonstrated through consistent and aggressive efforts to vastly reduce piracy in Russia. Such efforts will go a long way towards convincing the U.S. Congress to approve a bilateral agreement with Russia."

During his trip, Congressman Sensenbrenner met with Vyacheslav Lebedev, Head of the Supreme Court; Sergey Meshcheryakov, Director of Economic Crimes Unit; Duma Deputy Peter Shelisch, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Civil and Criminal Legislation; Duma Deputy Vladimir Vasiliev, Head of Security Committee; American Chamber of Commerce representatives; Andrey Sharonov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade; Andrey Fursenko, Minister of Education and Science; Anatoliy Safonov, Special Presidential Representative for International Cooperation in the Fight Against Terrorism; Boris Simonov, Head of the Federal Service for Intellectual Property; Deputy General Sergey Sredinniy, Deputy to the Procurator General; Aleksey Likhachev, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, Duma; and Uriy Mikhaylichenko, Executive Secretary, Expert Council on Legal Control and Intellectual.

The Congressman's website: <http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>

For additional information contact the Congressman's Office in Washington (Tel: 1-202-225-5101, 2449 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC, 20515-4905, USA).

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